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SDE RELEASES NEW BASELINE GRADUATION RATES 2013/2014 NEW FEDERAL REPORTING METHOD DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT

(Boise) The Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) is required to release the graduation rates each year and has calculated the new *baseline* graduation rate for the 2013-14 school year under a new reporting method mandated by the federal government. Under this new calculation, students are expected to earn a regular high school diploma in four years; however, the new reporting method counts specific student populations as *non-graduates* who were previously counted as graduates or removed entirely.

The 2013-14 school year baseline graduation rate confirms the percentage of students earning their high school diploma in four years at 77.3%. The new reporting method *does not* account for the following student populations:

- 5.7% of alternative students who are in school completing credits to graduate
- 3.6% students who earned a GED
- 1.0% of special education students who earned a diploma under adapted guidelines

Only 2.9% of the 2013-14 cohorts were reported as “known or possible” dropouts. The breakdown of the remaining students counted as non-graduates are:

- 5.7 % of students were not assigned a specific exit code or withdrawal reason unknown
- 4 % - Students who transferred out of state without official documentation
- 0.1% - Other reasons; such as, medical, reached maximum age, or denied appeals where adequate documentation was not submitted

The adjusted cohort graduation rate is expected to increase as districts and charter schools make modifications in recording and documentation gathering practices to meet the federal guidelines. This year’s announcement of the rate should be considered a baseline for all future comparisons (assuming the standards remain the same).

If excluded groups previously counted are added back into the equation, Idaho is slightly below the graduation rate calculated in the 2012-13 school year which is at 84.1%.

For additional information on the adjusted cohort graduation rate, please visit:
<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/accountability.htm>

For a comparison of states based on the adjusted cohort graduation rate, please visit:
http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_2010-11_to_2012-13.asp

For additional information on your local high school’s adjusted cohort graduation rate, please visit Idaho’s Report Card: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reportCard/>

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